

Classis Georgetown MEETING MINUTES

Session #121

Thursday, February 20, 2025

Meeting at Georgetown CRC, 6475 - 40th Ave., Hudsonville, MI 49426

Our Vision

Classis Georgetown is a community of Christian Reformed Churches in Eastern Ottawa County who live and minister together, in Christ, to transform lives and communities.

Officers of the Day

President: Rev. Jeffery Scripps

Vice-President: Rev. Cody Zuiderveen

Stated Clerk: Ms. Glenda Tebben

Article 1: OPENING OF CLASSIS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 1.1 | Classis president Rev. Jeffery Scripps called the meeting to order and thanked Georgetown CRC for their generosity in hosting. |
| 1.2 | The chair gives a brief overview of the agenda. The Classis Value that we will focus on this evening is Healthy Leaders: <i>We equip leaders to transform lives and communities.</i> |
| 1.3 | A time of devotions is led by Vice-President Rev. Cody Zuiderveen who leads us in “A Liturgy to Begin a Purposeful Gathering” from <i>Every Moment Holy</i> . |
| 1.4 | President Scripps welcomed delegates, staff, and guests. |

Article 2: CONSITIUTION OF CLASSIS

- | | |
|-----|--|
| 2.1 | President Scripps declares Classis constituted. |
| 2.2 | Roll Call of delegates is taken. All delegates sign the Covenant for Office Bearers in the CRC. |

Church	Pastor	Elder(s)	Deacon(s)
Alive Ministries		Kirk Haverdink	Jana VanderLaan
Baldwin Street		Paul Mellema	Duane Vork
Bauer	Dave TenClay	Randy Oosterheert	Jeff Koning
Cottonwood	Matt Palsrok	Scott Vedders	Brian Lerch
Evergreen Ministries		Rick Post	Kurt Scholtens
Fairway	Jeremy Rhodes	Jan Machiela	Ben Bouwkamp
First Hudsonville	Dave Jolman	Ernie Peters	
Forest Grove	Jeffery Scripps	Randy Dozeman	Ron Koedam
Georgetown	Doug Kamstra	Dean DeVries	Dan Wierenga
Hillcrest	Cory Nederveld	Brandon Seaver	Mason Witte
Immanuel		Colin Herd	

	Jamestown	Chris Bouma	Peter VanRijs	
	Messiah	Gale Tien	Rick Wierenga	Matt Boetsma
	Ridgewood	Michael TenHaken	Deb DeVries	
	Searchlight	Sam Krikke	Herb Kraker	Dan Bosma
	Strong Tower Ministry	Bryson Masiboh		
	The Refuge	Gerry Koning	Carol Newman	Ross Jelsema
	Zutphen	Mark Elffers	Bill Rietman	Duane DeWeerd
2.3	Other persons attending Classis for some or all of the meeting are: <u>Vision Team:</u> Ms. Kathy Jelsema, Ass't Treasurer; Ms. Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk; Mr. Mel VanderBie, Treasurer; Rev. Cody Zuiderveen, Campus Ministry at GVSU <u>Guests:</u> Mrs. Jeanne Kallemeyn, COD rep; Mr. Fig VanderMolen, Youth Champion; Rev. Curt Walters, Hillcrest CRC; Rev. Matthew Wright, Cottonwood CRC; Mr. Jordan Satterthwaite, Campus Ministry at GVSU; Rev. Noelle Jacobs, Campus Ministry at GVSU; Rev. Scott Stark, Resonate Global Mission; Ms. Janis Persenaire, Resonate Global Mission; Rev. James Evenhouse, Baldwin Street CRC (retired pastor); Rev. Tom Walcott, Evergreen Ministries (retired pastor); Rev. Ron Bouwkamp, ReFrame Ministries/Hillcrest CRC (retired pastor), Rev. Joel VandeWerken, Director of Ecclesiastical Governance CRCNA, members of our host church, Georgetown CRC			
2.4	Credentials Committee, Rev. Cory Zuiderveen reporting Credentials were received from all the churches. All credentials are in order. Matters submitted to Classis by way of credentials: <u>From Zutphen CRC (additional comments):</u> <i>Zutphen CRC is grateful for all of the believing women in our classis and their many spiritual gifts. However, in accordance with Church Order Article 40-a Supplement b, we believe that the seating of women delegates at a classis meeting is a violation of the Word of God. We would like to record our protest on the appropriate credentials.</i>			

Article 3: WE HEAR ABOUT THE WORK AND MINISTRY OF OUR CLASSIS REPRESENTATIVES

3.1	Council of Delegates Report – Ms. Jeanne Kallemeyn The COD met via Zoom from February 5-7. Jeanne reviews the written highlights. One item of note from Resonate Global Mission: foreign missionaries are under a lot of stress. We are encouraged to take time to communicate with them via gifts, cards, and especially prayer. The final Gather event will be in Des Moines, IA, from April 28-30. Only three classis will be involved so additional attendees are welcome. If interested, please talk to Jeanne. Jeanne is thanked for her work on our behalf.
3.2	Classical Ministry Leadership Team (CMLT) Report – Rev. Jeffery Scripps Rev. Scripps shares a brief report highlighting that at the present time there are no students receiving aid; therefore, the team has spearheaded the ASPIRE event for young people to hear and learn about the call to be a pastor. ASPIRE will be held at Forest Grove CRC on March 22. Rev. Gale Tien, a member of the CMLT asks churches to strongly encourage young people to attend. Information fliers are distributed and have been sent to all the churches. The CMLT is thanked for their work.

3.3	Regional Pastors Report The written report is received for information. Our regional pastors, Rev. Marc Nelesen and Rev. Stan Drenth are thanked for their work. Clergy Health and Flourishing Initiative: Two motions from the initiative were tabled at the October 20, 2024, Classis Meeting. MOTION: To take from the table the motions which were tabled on October 20, 2024: CARRIED Rev. Scripps presents a revised version of Recommendations 2 and 3. Recommendation #2 – That Classis Georgetown encourage ongoing growth by financially supporting pastors pursuing conferences, seminars, or coaching and do so annually by providing up to \$2,500 in matching funds after a congregation’s \$2,500 annual investment in their pastor’s ongoing growth. The congregation must reach a “deductible” of \$2,500 before Classis matches the fund. MOTION: To approve this recommendation: CARRIED Recommendation #3 – That Classis Georgetown supports sabbatical funding for learning and growing opportunities up to \$2,500 after a congregation has invested \$3,500 toward its pastor’s sabbatical. The congregation must reach a “deductible” of \$3,500 before Classis provides support. MOTION: To approve this recommendation: CARRIED
3.4	Youth Champion Report – Mr. Fig VanderMolen Fig shares with delegates that joy he experiences in being involved in youth ministry in Classis Georgetown. As Youth Champion, Fig is a “youth ministry” resource for our churches. Fig asks that we all encourage our youth to become involved in a mission trip this summer. He highlights the collaborative youth ministry among the churches in our classis. Youth Pastors and leaders are working together with youth on projects and doing joint ministry. They gather regularly for prayer and support. In March a classis-wide retreat of scripture reading (the book of Mark) and fasting will be held. Fig is thanked for his work as our Youth Champion.
3.5	Rev. Chris Bouma leads in a prayer of blessing for the COD; the ASPIRE event, gives thanks for the care experienced in our classis through the work and ministry of our Regional Pastors, and lifts up Fig and all youth ministers and leaders. He gives thanks for how God is leading us as we serve Him together.

Article 4: WE WORK TOGETHER

4.1	Delegates/Alternates to Synod 2025 (June 13-19 at Redeemer University) Rev. Cody Nederveld offers a prayer for the voting process and for those who will be chosen to serve as delegates/alternates at Synod 2025. Results of the Classis voting on those who will represent Classis Georgetown at the June meeting of the Synod of the CRCNA: The following ministers were elected: First Pastor Delegate, Rev. Mark Elffers Second Pastor Delegate, Rev. Jeffery Scripps First Pastor Alternate, Rev. Jeremy Rhodes Second Pastor Alternate, Rev. Nate Meldrim The following elders were elected: First Elder Delegate, Mr. Herb Kraker Second Elder Delegate, Mr. Brandon Seaver Under Church Order Article 45, Classis Georgetown will send two elder delegates because there are no deacon delegates. <i>Synod is the assembly representing the churches of all classes. Each classis shall ordinarily delegate one minister, one elder, one deacon, and one other officebearer to synod. A classis may send no more than two delegates bearing the same office.</i> – Cf. Supplement, Article 45
-----	--

Article 5: BUSINESS OF CLASSIS: MINISTRY REPORTS

5.1	Vision Team Report Ms. Glenda Tebben reviews the Vision Team report. Rev. Sam Krikke presents a report and explanation about Church Visitors. In keeping with the Classis Georgetown value of collaborative relationships, meetings with church visitors will include prayerful listening, discernment, and encouragement. Councils are encouraged to submit names of ministers and/or officebearers who they feel could serve as a church visitor. Names can be given to Rev. Krikke or to the Stated Clerk. MOTION: To approve the work of the Vision Team: CARRIED
5.2	Stated Clerk report Ms. Glenda Tebben elaborated on several items on the written report. We welcome two pastors to our classis: Rev. Shawn Gerbers was installed as an associate pastor of Bauer CRC on January 5, 2025. Rev. Gerbers is an RCA pastor who came to Bauer from First CRC in Zeeland. The credentials of Rev. Matthew Wright have been received from Visalia CRC (Classis Central California). Rev. Wright is serving as an associate pastor of Cottonwood Church. He was installed on Sunday, January 12, 2025. MOTION: To approve the work of the Stated Clerk: CARRIED Glenda is thanked for her work on our behalf.

5.3	Treasurer's Report Mr. Mel VanderBie reviews the Classis' financial statement. Current cash balances are very healthy. We thank God for the faithfulness of the churches in our classis. Six churches need to turn in denominational pledge and classis membership count. MOTION: To approve the work of the Treasurer: CARRIED Mel is thanked for his work on our behalf.
5.4	Rev. Ron Bouwkamp, a representative from ReFrame Ministries invites all pastors to "Pastries with Pastors" on February 25th at 3:00 PM in the Student Center at Calvin Seminary. Rev. Huascar De la Cruz, Spanish Language Ministry Leader for ReFrame Ministries will give an update on his work and ministry.
5.5	In keeping with the meetings theme of "Healthy Leaders," Rev. Doug Kamstra shares an opportunity for church leaders: <i>Deeper Journey: Sacred Rhythms for the Soul</i>. This is a series of eight two-day retreats over the course of two years, allowing participants to encounter God and deepen their intimacy with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. For more information, delegates and guests are invited to speak with Doug.
5.6	One of our Classis Values is Collaborative Relationships. Rev. Doug Kamstra (on behalf of the Community Relationships Team at Georgetown CRC) calls attention to Georgetown's Bed building ministry. This ministry provides quality beds for those in need. Rev. Kamstra invites other churches to help in this ministry. There is a great need for this in our community and it would be good to do this collaboratively. He invites all churches to join them – through prayer, volunteering, and also financially. Reach out to Ms. Amy Koetsier at Georgetown CRC to determine how best you can help.
5.7	We welcome Rev. Joel VandeWerken, Director of Ecclesiastical Governance CRCNA. Joel introduces himself and the work he is doing with classis, synod, and the denomination. Church is a group of people connected to one another because of a shared connection to Christ. His goal is to assist our classis in doing the work of the church well.
5.8	Rev. Jeremy Rhodes led in a prayer of thanks for the work and ministry of our Classis and denominational leaders, the opportunities for growth and learning that were presented to us, and praised God for ways in which we can work with each other. Thanks is given for the food and fellowship we will enjoy.

Article 6: DINNER AND FELLOWSHIP	
6.1	Delegates and guests enjoy a delicious meal and a wonderful time of fellowship. Volunteers from our host church are thanked for their efficiency and hospitality.

Article 7: WE LEARN TOGETHER: FAITHFUL LEADERSHIP IN ANXIOUS TIMES	
7.1	As we focus on our classis value of Healthy Leaders, Rev. Gerry Koning welcomes Rev. Norm Thomasma.
7.2	Rev. Thomasma delivers a presentation on Faithful Leadership in Anxious Times. He describes the causes of stress and anxiety as they relate to churches and congregations but also as they manifest in our personal lives. We are living in a culture where anxiety and anxiety disorders are creeping up. We are created to be anxious when there is a threat. He explains how stress and anxiety can affect our relationships with those in our churches. Anxiety is circular but calmness is also circular and calmness can be caught. In order to be faithful leaders, it is important to manage yourself and your own anxiety and stress. Doing this well is a gift to the people with whom you are working. Rev. Thomasma leaves us with the words of Philipians 4:2-9.
7.3	Rev. Thomasma is thanked for his presentation.

Article 8: CLASSIS IS ADJOURNED	
8.1	Rev. Jeffery Scripps leads in a prayer of thanks for what was said and done in the evening's meeting.
8.2	President Scripps declares Classis is adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday, May 15, 2025, held at (host church still needed)

Agenda Deadline: April 21, 2025

Credentials Committee: Messiah CRC and The Refuge

Following meeting, Thursday, October 16, host church needed

Respectfully submitted,

Glenda Tebben, Stated Clerk